

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1973-1974

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13 February 1974

DOCUMENT 361/73

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External Economic Relations

on the Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 328/73) for a regulation on the ~~total~~ or partial suspension of Common Customs duties on certain products falling within Chapter 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff

Rapporteur: Mr Martin BANGEMANN

EP 1973-1974: 361



By letter of 15 January 1974 the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the total or partial suspension of common customs duties falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Malta.

On 7 February, the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on External Economic Relations as the Committee responsible and the Committee on Agriculture for an opinion.

The Committee on External Economic Relations appointed Mr Bangemann rapporteur on 5 February 1974.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

The following were present: Mr de la Malène, chairman; Sir Tufton Beamish, Mr Brégègère, Mr Jahn, Mr Kaspereit, Lord Lothian, Mr Müller, Sir John Peel, Mr Radoux, Mr Schulz and Mr Thiry.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

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The Committee on External Economic Affairs hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs duties on certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Malta

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM (73) 2112/fin.),
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 113 of the EEC Treaty, (Doc. 328/73).
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on External Economic Relations (Doc. 361/73), and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 361/73),
1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. A Council Regulation of 1 March 1971 concluded an association agreement between the European Economic Community and Malta; its purpose was to eliminate gradually obstacles to the major part of trade between the contracting parties and thus to contribute to the development of international trade. The agreement was to be implemented in two five-year stages.
2. After the Community began to grant generalized preferences to certain developing countries on 1 July 1971, it was found that some beneficiary countries with similar economic, climatic and social characteristics to Malta, gained a trade advantage over the latter, in that the tariff concessions granted under the generalized preferences produced conditions in some respects more favourable than those resulting from the earlier association agreement with Malta.
3. This was immediately obvious<sup>1</sup> and, in order to promote trade liberalization as well as speedier and more balanced economic progress in the Mediterranean area, the present proposal for a regulation was drawn up granting Malta, as from 1 January 1974, no less favourable treatment than that accorded to countries benefitting from generalized preferences, i.e. the total or partial suspension of Common Customs duties on certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff.
4. It should be noted that the present proposal for a regulation refers only to products in respect of which Community treatment of Malta is no more favourable than the treatment given under the generalized preferences.
5. The fact that the financial effect of this proposal for a regulation will be negligible should also be taken into account. On the basis of 1971 trade figures, the amount of customs duties foregone in 1974 as a result of implementing this proposal will be insignificant.

Since the regulation is only to apply for 1974, these financial effects, in themselves of minor importance, will exist for only a short time.

6. We wish to draw attention to the fact that our committee gave a favourable opinion on granting similar concessions to Turkey<sup>2</sup>.
7. In view of the above considerations, the Committee on External Economic Relations sees no objections to the present proposal for a regulation and is of the opinion that it can be adopted in its present form.

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<sup>1</sup>Mr COUSTE presented a Written Question to the Council of the European Communities on this point on 28 March 1973, OJ C 68, 21 July 1973.

<sup>2</sup>Report on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 267/73) on a regulation on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey - Rapporteur: Mr G. Boano (Doc. 294/73).

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr de la MALENE,  
chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Strasbourg, 11 February 1974

Dear Sir,

At its meeting of 7 and 8 February the Committee on Agriculture considered the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for:

- a regulation on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs duties on certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Malta (Doc. 328/73)

which had been referred to it for an opinion.

At this meeting the committee decided that it had no objections to the proposal and accordingly unanimously approved it with one abstention<sup>1</sup>. It asked me to inform the Committee on External Economic Relations by letter of its favourable opinion.

Yours sincerely,

R. HOUDET

<sup>1</sup>The following were present:

Mr LABAN, vice-chairman in the chair; Mr VETRONE, vice-chairman;  
Lord St. OSWALD, rapporteur for the opinion; Mr AIGNER (deputizing for Mr LUCKER), Mr BERTHOUN (deputizing for Mr HOUDET), Mr de KONING, Mr DURAND (deputizing for Mr DURIEUX), Mr FRUH, Mr GIBBONS, Mr John HILL, Mr KAVANAGH, Mr LEFEBVRE, Mr LIGIOS, Mr MARTENS, Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS and Mr THORNLEY (deputizing for Mrs ORTH)